

1     **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

2             1.     A configurable vehicle seat comprising:  
3                     a seat base;  
4                     a seat cushion supported by the seat base; and  
5                     a seat back coupled to the seat base, with the seat back including a  
6 configurable portion, wherein the configurable portion can be selectively moved to  
7 one of a seating position and a cargo blocking position.

1             2.     The configurable vehicle seat of claim 1, wherein the configurable  
2 portion is coupled to the seat back with a hinge mechanism.

1             3.     The configurable vehicle seat of claim 2, wherein the hinge mechanism  
2 includes an actuator to move the configurable portion.

1             4.     The configurable vehicle seat of claim 3, wherein the actuator is  
2 selected from the group including a cable, a hydraulic cylinder, and a pneumatic  
3 cylinder.

1             5.     The configurable vehicle seat of claim 1, wherein the seat back is  
2 composed of one of a metal and composition material.

1             6.     The configurable vehicle seat of claim 1, wherein the seat back  
2 includes a headrest.

1             7.     The configurable vehicle seat of claim 1, wherein the seat back  
2 includes a side bolster.

1             8.     A method for preventing cargo movement from a cargo storage area  
2 into a passenger area of a vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:  
3                     providing a vehicle seat having a seat back with a configurable portion;  
4                     moving the seat back to a non-seating position; and  
5                     moving the configurable portion to a cargo inhibiting position.

6           9.       The method of claim 8, including the steps of providing a hinge  
7 mechanism and coupling the hinge mechanism to the seat back and the configurable  
8 portion.

1           10.      The method of claim 9, including the steps of providing an actuator  
2 and coupling the actuator to the hinge mechanism.

1           11.      The method of claim 10, including the step of selecting the actuator  
2 from a group including a cable, a hydraulic cylinder, and a pneumatic cylinder.

1           12.      The method of claim 8, wherein the seat back is composed of one of a  
2 metal and composition material.

1           13.      The method of claim 8, wherein the seat back includes a headrest.

1           14.      The method of claim 8, wherein the seat back includes a side bolster.